

The Williams Brothers first came on the scene in the mid-'80s, and people wanted to hear them 'cause they were working with all kinds of heavies like T-Bone Burnett and Mike Campbell produced them and Dylan among others gave them songs. Good singers in the sense that they have good voices, their first album *Two Stories* went nowhere. Four years later, they're back, looking considerably older, with a new acoustic guitar sound often augmented by violins and cellos and lots of their own songs on a new self-titled disc on Warner Bros. Sometimes their songs have good ideas, most notably on "The Family Room" and "The Big Machine," and at other times, well...you wish that maybe they'd left the lyrics to someone else to write. They take a crack at all kinds of deep heavy subjects, with an eye on brotherhood and saving the world from destruction. Alternately cynical and optimistic, they can sing in wondrously close harmonies that it seems only brothers can achieve on songs like "Give It All Up For You." Though their lyrics are occasionally weak, they sing with heartfelt passion with guitar work that is always tasteful. They make two appearances here in the next week, one at a bookstore.

The Williams Brothers: Sunday, Oct. 13 at 5 p.m. at Borders, 1727 Walnut St., Free. Thurs., Oct. 17 at 10 p.m. (opening for Innocence Mission) at the Chestnut Cabaret, \$9, \$7.50 (adv.) 382-1204.

--Peter Brown